

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A product comprising a substrate to which is chemically bonded a monolayer of silicon atoms which are connected to other silicon atoms in said monolayer through oxygen atoms in said monolayer, wherein the surface of said substrate comprises an inorganic element or oxide thereof, which is capable of forming a bond to silicon atoms in said monolayer, and wherein the monolayer is substituted with first and second hydrocarbyl substituents and each of the silicon atoms in said monolayer is substituted with said first hydrocarbyl substituent or said second hydrocarbyl substituent, wherein said first hydrocarbyl substituent is longer than said second hydrocarbyl substituent, and wherein the density of said hydrocarbyl substituents is at least 7 micromoles per square meter of substrate surface.

wherein said product is formed by hydrating the surface of said substrate to form on said surface a monolayer of water, and then reacting said hydrated surface with silanes of the formulas  $R^1SiX$ , and  $R^2SiX$ , wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are hydrocarbyl substituents and X is a leaving group, provided that  $R^1$  is longer than  $R^2$ , under conditions under which said silanes react at said surface and form said monolayer of silicon atoms.

wherein said inorganic element is selected from the group consisting of Al, Zr, P, Be, Mg, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Ge, As, Rb, Sr, Y, Nb, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pt, Au, Ag, Tl, Pb, and Bi.

Claim 8, line 1, delete "Claim 6" and replace therefor --Claim 1--.

Claim 9, line 1, delete "Claim 6" and replace therefor --Claim 1--.

Claim 10, line 1, delete "Claim 6" and replace  
therefor --Claim 1--.

Claim 11, line 1, delete "Claim 6" and replace  
therefor --Claim 1--.

Claim 27, line 4, delete "Claim 6" and replace  
therefor --Claim 1--.

48/13 (Amended) The method of rendering a surface  
comprising an inorganic element or oxide thereof resistant to  
chemical and mechanical degradation which comprises forming on  
said surface a protective monolayer of silicon atoms which are  
connected to other silicon atoms in said monolayer through  
oxygen atoms in said monolayer, wherein the monolayer is  
substituted with first and second hydrocarbyl substituents and  
each of the silicon atoms in said monolayer is substituted with  
a first hydrocarbyl substituent or a second hydrocarbyl  
substituent, wherein said first hydrocarbyl substituent is  
longer than said second hydrocarbyl substituent, and wherein  
the density of said hydrocarbyl substituents is at least 7  
micromoles per square meter of substrate surface;

wherein said protective monolayer is formed by  
hydrating the surface of said substrate to form on said surface  
a monolayer of water, and then reacting said hydrated surface  
with silanes of the formulas R<sup>1</sup>SiX<sub>3</sub> and R<sup>2</sup>SiX<sub>3</sub>, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>  
are hydrocarbyl substituents and X is a leaving group, provided  
the R<sup>1</sup> is longer than R<sup>2</sup>, under conditions whereunder said  
silanes react at said surface and form said monolayer of  
silicon atoms.

wherein said inorganic element is selected from the  
group consisting of Al, Zr, P, Be, Mg, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co,  
Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Ge, As, Rb, Sr, Y, Nb, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pt, Au, Ag,  
Tl, Pb, and Bi.